

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bishop House  
other names/site number 60-107

### 2. Location 1/10 of a mile north of the junction of VA Routes

street & number 643 and 613 N/A  not for publication  
city, town Graysontown vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24141

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> sists	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1968, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: double-pile center-passage plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof Metal: tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bishop House is located on the crest of a bluff above the Little River facing the town of Snowville on the Pulaski County side. The house faces south and is built into the hillside so that on the river front it is two stories and on the land front it is one story in height. The standing seam metal roof is hipped in form with a flat top. Brick flues pierce the roof in the Georgian plan position. East and west fronts feature three-bay facades with side-lighted doors in the center bay, and both fronts feature pedimented porches sheltering the central bay. Windows are two-over-two double-hung sash with segmentally arched heads. The east porch is the most elaborate and features turned posts and a baluster bracketed spindle frieze with drop pendants, and a pointed window in the steep pedimented gable. The walls are laid in six-course American bond.

The interior of the principal or upper floor is laid out with large rooms flanking the passage on the east front and smaller rooms on the west front. The internal partitions are of frame and appear to be brick-nogged (or infilled with bricks) in most locations. Brick flues, originally supplying stoves, rise on the west side of the partitions between the rooms flanking the passage. The trim around doors and windows includes a pine board with a molded architrave of walnut applied. The woodwork is left unpainted. The four-panel doors are made of pine but have panels of walnut. An open stringer stair descends from the passage to the lower floor. The stair is surrounded by a turned-baluster railing with a turned newel post. The west or river side door has double-glazed sidelights and transom. The lower floor was originally unfinished except for the room in the southwest corner. The present owner has recently added a kitchen and bath in the east half of the lower floor.

The house and immediate domestic-related space is enclosed on the north, east, and south by a wire fence. The lawn in this area appears to have been artificially built up. A vertical board-sheathed frame buggy house stands to the immediate south, and appears to be contemporary with the house. A noncontributing modern shed-like building of frame construction stands to the northwest of the house.

See continuation sheet

**5.-Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1890 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bishop House is eligible under criterion C as an unusual example of a regionally-popular house form. Fourteen two-story, double-pile center-passage houses from the late nineteenth century are located in the county; six of them were built of brick, one of stone, and seven of frame. Only one late nineteenth-century house was found to be of the one-story, double-pile center-passage form. The Bishop House has unusually elaborate decorative exterior and interior features and a unique bank sitting on the edge of a very steep bluff. The house remains in excellent condition with most of its original features preserved. Minor alterations made in the east section of the lower floor have not compromised the significant form and decorative features of the building.

The house was built by a Dr. William Bishop. The present owners possess ledgers from the period 1875-1898 providing evidence of a store operated by Mrs. Bishop during that period. Among the items sold were dry goods and Coca-Cola. The house was later owned by the Covey family and for a long interval in the twentieth century by the family of Davis Moore who sold the house recently to the present owners. Tradition holds that Dr. Bishop who had been a soldier during the Civil War played Taps every Sunday evening from this hill above the town of Graysontown (Hite). At one time, steps descended down the steep slope from the west front of the house to the road next to the Little River below.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Blevins, Debra K. Interview, Summer 1987.

Hite, Bentley. Interview, January 1986.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	7
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5	3	9	5	4	0
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4	0	9	8	9	6	1	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A 50 feet northeast and 50 feet southeast of the east corner of the house, proceeding southwest 97.5 feet along the southeast side of a drive to point B, thence northwest 120.5 feet to point C, thence northeast 97.5 feet along line of garage to point D, thence southeast 120.5 feet to point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, outbuildings, and domestic-related space. The mid-twentieth-century garage was not included in the boundaries.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730

street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073

city or town Christiansburg

# 60-107 BISHOP HOUSE

G. WORSHAM  
K. MARTIN 10/87



